

FY 2013 ONLINE FORUM SUMMARY

In conjunction with the Public Forums that were held in May 2012, an Online Forum was also held. There was a different topic posted every few days. The Online Forum was available from May 14th, 2012 through May 25th, 2012.

CD FORUM QUESTION 1: Last Year the funding categories were broken down by the following percentages: Affordable Housing 39%, Economic Development 13%, Public Facilities 14%, Public Services 15%, and Planning/Administration 19%. Do you agree with these percentages? Would you prefer to shift funds from one category to another? Would you like to see more affordable housing, more job opportunities, etc? Let us know what you think! Please explain your answer.

CD FORUM QUESTION 2: What barriers are keeping you, or someone you know, from obtaining suitable housing? What type of program or assistance would help most in attaining suitable housing?

CD FORUM QUESTION 3: The City is limited in how much money it puts into fund Public Services. Which of the following would you place a priority on? Food and clothing, health and dental care, emergency shelter services, transitional housing for homeless, services for homeless youth, or supportive housing for homeless.

CD FORUM QUESTION 4: What is the biggest need that you see in your neighborhood. What is the biggest need in Duluth?

Question ID	Date Posted	Display Name	Neighborhood	Comment
1	5/14/2012	Homeowner	East Hillside	30% affordable housing 20% public facilities 15% Public services 20% economic development 15% administration Administration should not be more than 15% of the total budget.
1	5/15/2012	Citizen	Hillside	I believe that we should allocate more to Economic Development. Helping people find and maintain employment affects so many other areas of the community. How can we thrive as a city and county if our citizens aren't working to their potential? However, I'm not saying that we hand out jobs left and right. People won't learn that way. I am saying that we should train people and give them the tools they need to find employment. Not everyone knows how to write a resume or cover letter or answer interview questions. If we focus on equipping our citizens for employment, we will find higher success rates and less job hopping.
2	5/16/2012	JS	Central Hillside	Housing is only truly affordable if all costs are considered. We need to continue with programs that provide for affordable rental, purchase, and living (which includes energy/utility costs). Duluth's housing stock is old and needs to continue to be updated for energy efficiency, blight reduction, and neighborhood stabilization.
2	5/16/2012	Dave	Lincoln Park	We need more affordable hosing but not for families that don't WANT to work. What we need is more help for people to purchase housing NOT renting. Help with down payments would be ideal. Plus make people clean up their yards and keep it looking like you care.

3	5/18/2012	laxley	townhomes	I think those are wonderful things to spend money on. Food and clothing are a necessity and a lot of kids don't have just that. They need food to develop correctly and to function further in life, so I think kids should be first priority. People need medical and dental care because if they don't have it they will suffer and look for other ways to make it go away which could be unhealthy. Anything with housing is positive too because a lot of poor people trying to get on to their own two feet instead of relying on others can't afford housing. Housing is outrageously expensive. Kudos to all of the people who helped support and pay for all of these things to help our community!
4	5/24/2012	laxley	townhomes	I don't see any need in my neighborhood but I do see a lot of needs in downtown Duluth. We need to work to better the areas that are crumbling to the ground. We need to educate people so they can help with the up keep of stuff. The more we help educate people the better off everybody will be.
4	5/24/2012	DS	Chester	The biggest need for both my neighborhood and for Duluth in general is providing for the needs of our youth. By being proactive and supporting children and their families in all aspects (food, shelter, education, youth programming) we are able to help break families out of the cycle of poverty. It is much more cost effective to be proactive rather than reactive, while also positively impacting the lives of more people.